GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:536
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2007
BIO-TECHNOLOGY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Mahato Shri Narahari

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any initiatives to popularize the application of Bio-technology for rural development to alleviate poverty and to generate more employment opportunities among the poor masses; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 536 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.05.2007 REGARDING "BIO-TECHNOLOGY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT".

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The department has a scheme on Biotechnology based Programmes for Societal Development to benefit SC/ST, women and rural people. Through this scheme, various demonstration and training programmes are being supported in employment and income generation activities all over the country. The projects supported cover cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants, biofuels, production of biofertilizers and biopesticides, organic farming, aquaculture and ornamental fish breeding, mushroom cultivation, genetic counseling, biovillage, tissue culture, food products, poultry and integrated farming etc. Universities, public funded institutions, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and voluntary/non- governmental organizations have been involved in the implementation of the projects. The target group received the benefit of hands-on training and field demonstrations to bring greater awareness. The use of various environment-friendly technologies such as biocontrol agents, bio-pesticides,biofertilizers and bioremediation of degraded eco-systems is being supported. Through the schemes, more than 1.5 lakh people have already been directly benefited.